

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /085 W

-----063246 181906Z /50

O 181618Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2028

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1081

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH BC

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUZOREWA VISIT TO BOTSWANA

1. SR. PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS LEGWAILA
TELEPHONED APRIL 18 TO INFORM ME "CONFIDENTIALLY" THAT
BISHOP MUZOREWA WILL BE VISITING GABORONE FRIDAY, APRIL 21.
HIS VISIT IS RESULT OF INVITATION EXTENDED BY GOB "SOME
TIME AGO"; HIS ACCEPTANCE AT THIS TIME COMES AS SOMETHING
OF A SURPRISE.

2. LEGWAILA EXPLAINED THAT INVITATION WAS ISSUED "BECAUSE
WE'RE DESPERATE" AND ANXIOUS TO "LISTEN TO ANY PROPOSALS HE
MIGHT HAVE". LEGWAILA SAID KHAMA HAD ASKED THAT HE
GET IN TOUCH WITH ME TO ASK WHAT WE WOULD LIKE KHAMA
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TO SAY TO THE BISHOP. I NOTED WE HAD INSTRUCTIONS
(SECTO 4093) TO PRESENT TALKING POINTS ON DAR MEETING,
FOR WHICH APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN REQUESTED, BUT HAD NO
REACTIONS TO SALISBURY TALKS EXCEPT THAT THERE WAS
AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER OUR POSITION.

3. IN RARE SHOW OF LACK OF COORDINATION, MINEXTAFF

PERMSEC MPOTOKWANE TELEPHONED TEN MINUTES LATER AND ASKED ME TO JOIN UK HICOM TURNER AT HIS OFFICE WHERE HE REPEATED BOTH OF THE ABOVE POINTS: (A) THAT MUZOREWA WOULD ARRIVE APRIL 21, AND (B) KHAMA WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE WHAT WE WOULD LIKE HIM TO TELL MUZOREWA WITH A VIEW TO SUPPORTING ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

4. TURNER AND I REPLIED WE WOULD ASK THEIR AUTHORITIES WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE KHAMA TO CONVEY TO THE BISHOP.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIPT BY COB APRIL 20 OF ANY TALKING POINTS WE WOULD LIKE PRESIDENT KHAMA TO USE WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA. KHAMA'S OWN VIEWS OF THE SITUATION, AS REFLECTED GABORONE 1067, HAVE BEEN UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED BY EVERY GOB OFFICIAL. PF'S PERFORMANCE AT DAR HAS BEEN CRITICIZED WITH UNPRECEDENTED CANDOR. IN COMPARING IMPRESSIONS OF SALISBURY MEETING ON BASIS OF OUR RESPECTIVE REPORTING CABLES, HICOM TURNER FINDS MORE REASON FOR ENCOURAGEMENT ("OPEN DOOR") THAN I ("EMPHATIC" REJECTION OF ALL-PARTIES MEETING). WE AGREED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR US TO PRESENT COORDINATED UK-US SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO GOB REQUEST AND URGE THEY BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN COB APRIL 20.

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